

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-97. (Canceled)

98. (New) A user station for use in a music distribution system for distributing music to consumer locations at which user stations may be situated, wherein the music distribution system includes a data transmission system configured to blanket transmit a plurality of music content items to remote consumer locations in digital form, a central controller system configured to store addresses corresponding to remote consumer locations, a mechanism configured to verify to the controller system when a pre-selected music content item has been recorded at a remote consumer location, and a billing system configured to bill consumers for pre-selected music content items that have been recorded at the consumer's location, said user station comprising:

a pre-selection mechanism configured to enable a consumer to pre-select from the blanket transmission of a plurality of music content items specific music content items for storage in the user station at a remote consumer location;

a selection mechanism configured to enable said consumer to select for playback any one of the pre-selected music content items stored in the user station;

a mechanism configured to receive pricing information for the pre-selected music content items and to store said pricing information for subsequent querying by the central controller; and

a mechanism configured to transmit to the music distribution system pricing information for a music content item once a consumer indicates at the user station that the consumer wishes to make a permanent copy of the music content item.

99. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, further comprising an access mechanism configured to enable the user station to access a content library comprising said pre-selected music content items.

100. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, further comprising:

a play list mechanism configured to enable a consumer to construct a play list; and
a playing mechanism configured to play said play list in any sequence at any time.

101. (New) A user station as recited in claim 100, wherein said play list mechanism comprises an ordering mechanism configured to order said sequence including continuous playback, shuffle, sort-by-artist, sort-by-title or sort-by-category.

102. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, wherein said user station comprises a portion of a high capacity storage medium dedicated to recording pre-selected music selections.

103. (New) A user station as recited in claim 102, wherein said high capacity storage medium is a hard drive.

104. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, wherein said pre-selection mechanism comprises a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls providing music selection by artist, title and category.

105. (New) A user station as recited claim 98, wherein said pre-selection mechanism comprises a consumer preference selection mechanism configured to enable selection of consumer preferred music styles by a consumer at said remote consumer location.

106. (New) A user station as recited in claim 105, wherein said consumer preference selection mechanism comprises a graphical user interface with a music style preferences list.

107. (New) A user station as recited in claim 105, wherein said consumer preference selection mechanism comprises a graphical user interface with music style, subgroup and artist preferences lists for selection by said consumer.

108. (New) A user station as recited claim 98, further comprising a high capacity storage medium connected to a permanent storage medium.

109. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, wherein the central controller system comprises a general population cluster preference database; a consumer catalog generator module; an individual consumer preference information storage module; and a payload scheduler; wherein said individual consumer preference information storage module comprises an information collection mechanism configured to obtain said consumer preferred music styles of each consumer; and wherein said user station further comprises a mechanism configured to provide information concerning said consumer preferred music styles to the central controller system.

110. (New) A user station as recited in claim 109, further comprising a mechanism configured to read ID headers on the pre-selected music content items and to select for recording only those that are indicated by said individual consumer catalog as being desirable to the consumer.

111. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, further comprising a download module configured to decode pricing information and said transmitted music content items.

112. (New) A user station as recited in claim 98, further comprising: an access mechanism configured to enable the user station to access a content library comprising said pre-selected music content items; a play list mechanism configured to enable a consumer to construct a play list; and a playing mechanism configured to play said play list in any sequence at any time.

113. (New) A user station as recited in claim 112, wherein said play list mechanism comprises an ordering mechanism configured to order said sequence including continuous playback, shuffle, sort-by-artist, sort-by-title or sort-by-category; wherein said user station comprises a portion of a high capacity storage medium dedicated to recording pre-selected music selections; wherein said pre-selection mechanism comprises a menu driven, graphical user

interface with controls providing music selection by artist, title and category, and a consumer preference selection mechanism configured to enable selection of consumer preferred music styles by a consumer at said remote consumer location; wherein said consumer preference selection mechanism comprises a graphical user interface with a music style preferences list; wherein said consumer preference selection mechanism comprises a graphical user interface with music style, subgroup and artist preferences lists for selection by said consumer.

114. (New) A user station as recited in claim 113, further comprising: a high capacity storage medium connected to a permanent storage medium; a mechanism configured to read ID headers on the pre-selected music content items and to select for recording only those that are indicated by said individual consumer catalog as being desirable to the consumer; and a download module configured to decode pricing information and said transmitted music content items.

115. (New) A method for use at consumer locations of a music distribution system, comprising:

- receiving, at a user station employed at a remote consumer location, a blanket transmission of a plurality of music content items;

- receiving, at said consumer location, information identifying available music content items;

- recording, in said user station, a pre-selected music selection;

- transmitting a signal from said user station to verify to a controller system that the pre-selected music selection has been recorded at said consumer location;

- receiving, at said consumer location, pricing information for the pre-selected music content item and storing said pricing information in the user station for subsequent querying by a central controller; and

- transmitting said pricing information for the pre-selected music content item stored in the user station after a consumer makes an indication at the user station that the consumer wishes to make a permanent copy of the music content item; and

receiving, at the consumer location, billing information relating to the copied music content item.

116. (New) The method of claim 115, further comprising employing a pre-selection mechanism at the consumer location to pre-select and record desired music selections included in the blanket transmission of a plurality of music content items.

117. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein the pre-selection mechanism comprises a content library, said content library comprising said pre-selected music selections.

118. (New) The method of claim 116, further comprising employing a playback mechanism to playback recorded music selections according to a consumer created play list, said play list being arranged to play said recorded music selections in any sequence at any time.

119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the playback mechanism includes a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls for user selection of said music.

120. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein said blanket transmission is direct broadcast satellite data transmission accomplished with a high power transponder, thereby increasing effective transponder capacity.

121. (New) The method of claim 116, further comprising selecting consumer preferred music styles by using a graphical user interface having a musical style preferences list.

122. (New) The method of claim 121, further comprising selecting consumer preferences of music subgroup and artist by using said graphical user interface having a subgroup preferences list and an artist preferences list.